

On Thursday, August 12, former Dallas councilwoman Diane Ragsdale called a meeting of the representatives of people likely to be hurt by the Council's plan to balance the city budget by laying off city workers, cutting libraries, closing swimming pools and recreation centers, and cutting funds to the African-American museum and other services and institutions important to Dallas citizens. Local 100 was invited to represent labor.

SEIU's position regarding our members and the other city workers is as follows:

- We need more tax revenue instead of service cuts in this city in order to give our members who earn the minimum wage a chance to win pay raises by fighting for their share of city revenue.
- Balancing the city budget with layoffs is false economy: layoffs *COST* money. It costs the county hospital money, depletes food banks of their resources, costs social-service agencies money, drains unemployment compensation, causes more foreclosures, etc.
- The remaining workers have an increased workload, but their pay doesn't go up. As a result, layoffs create an overworked, underpaid and demoralized work force.

We also pointed out the fallacy behind the Mayor's assertion that low tax rates alone will attract business. Cities where people have money to spend on goods and services attract businesses, we said. Councilperson Angela Hunt is one of several officials who are on the fence on this issue and the plan is to hold a conference call with her next Tuesday.